

FROM THE GRAND EAST

WITH COMMITMENT THE BEST IS YET TO COME

Brothers,

I have been in business for more than 35 years and I believe strongly in the above statement. In a recent interview with Brother Walter Bruening of Great Falls, he touted the need for adjusting to a changing society. Brother Walter is now the oldest living man and has lived in 3 different centuries. Few people have been able to experience the changes that have occurred in a lifetime as Brother Walter has. He has seen the change from horse and buggy to the automobile, airplane and outer space travel. He has seen the use of radio change to television and the world of the internet and computers. And he plans to see even more change as his life continues.

We look now upon the reduction in the numbers within the Masonic order and realize there are a host of activities open to all members of society, which many years ago would have not been open to them either socially or financially. In many cases, instead of being opportunities, they are competitors whose return on investment and time is perceived as more favorable. The issue then, it is said, is whether we must view Freemasonry as a product and whether we must sell it.

The product itself is very stable. Very little can be done to alter the product without changing its essence and its appearance. We are told the principles and precepts have stood the test of time and are as valid today as ever. In other words, we cannot change the product and remain in the same business. If we change the product, it will not be long before Masonry does not exist as we know it today.

All of us can agree that we are living in a changing world and change is a normal aspect of our way of life. We can't avoid it, so we may as well accept it. But change is not the only aspect of our way of life because although we live in a changing world, we also live in a continuing world. The principles of Masonry have been with us for 300 years and probably much longer. They are just as vital and just as practical today as they ever were. They are the fibers that bind together our pattern of life. We should feel fortunate that our forefathers chose as they did and based Freemasonry not on the changing but in the continuing. They chose virtues to improve one's

self, resulting in continuing efforts to be a better person and therefore, a better citizen. Many education courses are offered to teach us how to do a better job at whatever vocation we may be involved in but Masonry concentrates on the inner person. I believe a man, young or old, would be foolish not to desire or strive to improve one's self.

There is no doubt that we must continue to teach the benefits of Masonry and use the innovative tools society has provided us with to reach prospective members. It may be healthy for prospective members to speculate on the benefits of membership but at some point, we must educate the new Mason on what is expected of him when addressing self improvement. We must make our meeting more interesting, our business more efficiently done, and our ritual flawless. But in the end, we must provide an atmosphere which encourages a new member to join all of us in self improvement. He must understand each of us are in the process each day of becoming better people and we want him to join us in that endeavor. He will then understand why we are the most legendary fraternity in the world.

I believe a large portion of today's adult males are seeking to join a fraternity of high moral standards and, outside of organized religion, no other organization fits that profile as well as Freemasonry. They seek role models of high moral standards; they seek vision; they seek security, and they are searching for foundations on which to build their lives. However, the institutions that typically offer these securities are under attack by

the public. Churches appear rocked by scandal and shaken by misconduct. The business world has been rocked by deceit and deception. Large insurance companies and automobile manufacturers now seek bankruptcy protection and use corporate jets to beg politicians for taxpayer bailouts. And some members of our US Senate and US Congress are found engaged in immoral and illegal conduct.

Will the above situation change in the years to come? I expect that it will. The tenets of Masonry however, will remain the same as they have for 300 years. There will be a continuation of that perception of high moral standards, of self improvement and fraternalism. And the product will remain the same. I, for one, can think of no other product that I would rather have available to me than self improvement as a man. How fortunate that we are a continuing fraternity and not a changing fraternity. We know what we have to offer the men of our country for the next 300 years and every man in America should have an interest in "self improvement". I believe Freemasonry has a bright future. Brothers "with Commitment the best is yet to come".



Thomas L. Lund

Thomas L. Lund, Grand Master

I, for one, can think of no other product that I would rather have available to me than self improvement as a man.

THE RITUALIST PROGRAM

Over the years many good men have come through the portals of our lodges in search of light. These men have all taken the degrees of Masonry with supposedly the same ritual as all of us, whether one at a time in the lodge or through a one day class. Why is it that some of these men continue to be active in the lodge, bring in petitions, take offices etc while others vanish to another body of the Masonic family or never return at all? Is it because they were not good men and didn't belong? Is it because they believed that there was nothing in Masonry for them? The answer to these questions is potentially, but not probably. The fault many times lies with the lodge itself.

The first exposure that a man truly has to the Masonic Fraternity and family as a whole is at his initiation into the lodge. Many times he does nothing with the lodge or even sees the workings of the lodge until he has taken his three degrees. These degrees are where we make our first impression to the candidate and can play an important role in his future as a Mason. For this reason it is extremely important that the ritual be done to the highest possible standards. I have sat in lodge where the ritual was so well done that everyone from the candidate to the master left with a sense of joy at being a part of something greater. These were excellent nights and made me proud to be a Mason. I have spent other times watching

as a lodge struggles through the work hardly

We promise to provide all our brothers with light and one of the greatest sources of Masonic Light is its ritual.

able to open the lodge let alone perform the degree. Nights like this leave everyone wondering what is the point of all of this. The work never changed, the

meaning behind it never changed. The whole feeling of the work and level of information conveyed to all present was solely dependant on the work.

The quality of our ritual whether in opening and closing, the degrees, or the funeral rites shows the world how we perceive ourselves and the fraternity. If a lodge can hardly get through the opening at a stated meeting it sets a poor tone for the rest of the meeting and drags things on unnecessarily. If we cannot properly put on the degree for a candidate he is left to wonder if we actually care and should he. If we cannot send a brother to the celestial lodge with pride and dignity all present wonder if we as brothers even care about the passed brother or our fraternity as a whole. This is why the Ritualist Program set forth by Grand Lodge is so important.

This program has the ability to help lodges retain membership, increase attendance at meetings, bring in new brothers, and improve how we are seen by the world at large. Is it easy to obtain a Ritualist level? No. Should it be easy? No. Organizations that claim to help men become better people and that can be joined and understood in a day are a dime a dozen but none of them contain the quality or volumes of information or teachings Masonry has. We promise to

provide all our brothers with light and one of the greatest sources of Masonic Light is its ritual. Studying and learning the ritual is one of the best ways for a brother to gain light in Masonry. This is where the Ritualist Program can help brothers and lodges. By learning the work we ourselves

gain a better understanding of the Fraternity and can help others achieve the same. The program rewards individuals but it is actually a lodge improvement program. I encourage all brothers and lodges to make use of this program and with it improve the lodge and the individual Mason. There is a generation of young men looking for just such an organization as we belong to. We need to be ready to provide that which we claim and return to the quality and dignity the Fraternity once held. The saying goes "If you build it, they will come." This program will help us "build it"

so we are ready when "they come." It has the ability to help us all understand from whence we come and whither we are traveling.

Chris Rubich PM
Ashlar Lodge #29



Montana Masonic News General Information and Submissions

The Montana Masonic News is an official publication of the Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Montana and the Montana Masonic Foundation Corporation. Unless otherwise noted, articles appearing in this publication express only the private opinion or assertions of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Grand Lodge. The jurisdiction speaks only through the Grand Master and the Executive Board, when attested to as official, in writing, by the Grand Secretary.

The editorial staff invites contributions in the form of informative articles, reports, news and other timely information (of about 500 to 1000 words in length) that broadly relate to Montana Masonry, Masonic law, lore, customs, history, symbolism, philosophy, responsibility of membership, etiquette, current events, and/or general public interest. When possible, photographs that illustrate these informative articles should accompany the submission. Pieces submitted should be typed, double-spaced and preferably accompanied by a computer disk in neutral PC format (MSWord preferred with formatting off) or via e-mail to: _mtglsec@grandlodgemontana.org.

While we often state when articles are due for the next issue, in order to insure there is space available for your article please submit it well before the due date. We don't send out reminders or solicitations for articles.

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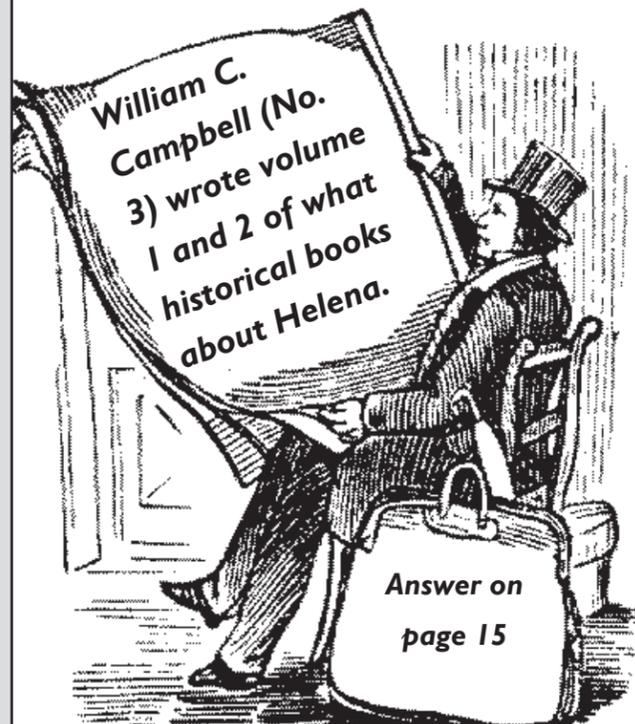
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Article and Photo submissions:

Articles: pieces submitted should be typed, double-spaced and preferably accompanied by a computer disk in neutral PC format (MSWord preferred with formatting off.)

Photo: Black and White or color; preferably accompanied by a computer disk with photo image in .jpg, .bmp, or .tif. Include who took the photo, when and where. Include a note with permission to print the photo.

Sponsors: Anyone interested in sponsoring in the paper will need to contact the Editor.



HOW TO LIVE ALTHOUGH A RITUAL COACH

How do I find the time... There are others who know the Ritual better... These and others are all familiar reasons we have stated and heard when volunteers are asked for to provide Proficiency coaching to candidates.

I was in a tough period of my life with many negative influences when I became a Mason and I was questioning not only what I thought, but WHY I thought the things I did.

The thought process is linear and can only concentrate on one thing at a time, multitasking is just switching rapidly from one thought to the next.

The reason Masonry has survived through the ages is that the powerful words of our Ritual resonate to our soul and fulfill a need too often overlooked in today's brief sound-byte world.

In days past, good men would commit to memory passages of the Bible or stirring poetry or verse... It became a part of them and they knew they would be better for it.



By focusing on the strong, edifying words of our Ritual, fully committing to memory those words that mean so much, we replace the negative thoughts and feelings of our day-to-day experiences. Through repetition, the subconscious gets in the habit of presenting those good, building thoughts instead of the negative ones.

It has often been said that we take good men and make them better.

That WE can be made better by helping our new Brothers be better is something I only gradually understood after progressing through many coaching sessions. As I continue to learn and commit to memory our Lectures and Ritual, I gain a more positive and healthy perspective, giving me the impetus to continue to improve myself and move ever closer to the ability to make a positive difference in our world.

My Brother, consider this. Is that worth the time? I've made it my

decision, and I pray you will make it yours!

Bill Murphy, PM

Ashlar Lodge #29

Billings Montana

INDIVIDUAL INTERPRETATIONS

An article once read: "Are we making too many Masons? No! A thousand times no! We are making them entirely too slowly; in fact we are not making one for every one hundred Master's degrees conferred. We are too busy making members to devote our attention to making Freemasons."

What was meant by that article? Certainly that our lodges are not providing what they were designed to. We are no longer professing that to obtain benefit from membership in our fraternity one must contemplate the beautiful phrases of the ritual, ponder over their meaning and discover the lessons for himself. Nor are our candidates being made aware that just as no one becomes proficient at an art, science, profession or most activities, without practice, so it is with the teachings of our Craft. Nor that no one can appreciate the beneficial aspects of the principles of Freemasonry without devoting oneself to read, study and contemplate them.

Consider the first time a candidate is instructed to pray for himself, after being reminded of the manner of his praying before. To be most effective, one must pray for oneself, but this instruction also signifies the necessity of individual and independent thought and interpretations.

Thus, Freemasonry's system of morals, being "veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols", is an instruction to look for further meaning, and requires interpretations beyond those apparent to the casual observer.

Jack R. Levitt PGM (CA)

SHRINE CHILDREN HOSPITAL - SPOKANE

To the Brethren of the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana,

Greetings Brethren from the Shriner's Children Hospital in Spokane. July was a big month for the twenty two Shrine Hospitals of North America. Our annual session was held in San Antonio, Texas the first part of the month. The two main pieces of business before the nobility were the possible closure of six hospitals in our system made necessary by the drop in our economy and the billing of third party for our hospital (insurance companies).

It has always been the desire of the Shrines to raise enough money in our endowment to fund the hospital system off the interest only. During the course of the last year, we were forced to dip into the principle for the uninterrupted care of our children. Our Imperial officers from a purely financial position, felt it necessary to close some of our facilities. However, the hearts and emotions of the general nobility dictated to the officers that we will close no hospitals and that we will help every child we can. This has been the mission of the Shiners since its inception.

The second top issue regarding the billing of insurance companies was unanimously approved by the nobility. While it has the implications of helping us reduce the deficit in the budget, it will not fully satisfy it. That is why the nobility have been given strict in charge to go out and solicit donations for our great work. For the fiscal year 2010, it is estimated that we will have a deficit in our budget of approximately \$180 million. While we do have the ability to meet our financial obligations going



into the future, this is not something that can perpetuate forever. We, as Masons and Shiners, need to reconfirm our commitment to the hospitals to keep them funded so we can help future generations of our children defy the odds.

Another mission of the local Shrine Temples is to maintain a transportation fund. Which is to see that

those in need can get to the hospital for treatment. This support could come in the form of a bus ticket, gas money or plane ride, depending upon the needs of the child.

The Shrine Hospital System is made up of twenty two hospitals, which do children orthopedics (skeleton and muscles) and burn treatment. The State of Montana supports the Spokane hospital

and our burn patients are sent to Sacramento to the Northern California Shrine Hospital. The State of Montana is fortunate to be represented by six brethren, with a board member located somewhat close to you. Each one will go out of their way to answer any questions you may have and assist in getting the kids the help they need.

In closing, I have listed all of our representatives and remember no man has stood so tall as the man who has stooped to help a child.

Edwin G. Leipheimer (24/33)

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RETRO-ADVENTURE STORIES THE TOCSIN CODEX OR THE GREEN LAMA

Kevin Noel Olson is Past Master of Butte Lodge #22 and an author of children's books. He writes fantasy fiction for young readers and retro-adventure stories similar in spirit to the writings of H.G. Wells and Jules Verne. Kevin had written adventure stories for several years before trying his hand at books for children. When the Masonic book publisher Cornerstone announced they were seeking to broaden their market to children's fiction, Kevin contacted them. They liked the books Kevin had sent for consideration and picked him up as an author.

Cornerstone's owner, Brother Michael Poll, says of Kevin's writing, "Kevin Olson paints beautiful pictures with words. Not only does he tell a great story, but his words flow with a rhythm and ease that carry the reader through his tale."

"Masonry greatly influences my writing," Kevin said. "The lessons learned in Lodge help me create a worthwhile message that will keep the reader interested."

Kevin wanted to create children's books like those he enjoyed reading as a child. "I feel reading books like C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia series helped me form

a philosophy of life along with some practical life-lessons. This makes me desire to be a better man and help the people around me. If I can encourage readers to find the joy in helping others, I feel good about that. Masonry offers a way to work in a positive direction, and I hope that is reflected in my writings."

The Tocsin Codex is a series of children's books following the adventures of a young girl

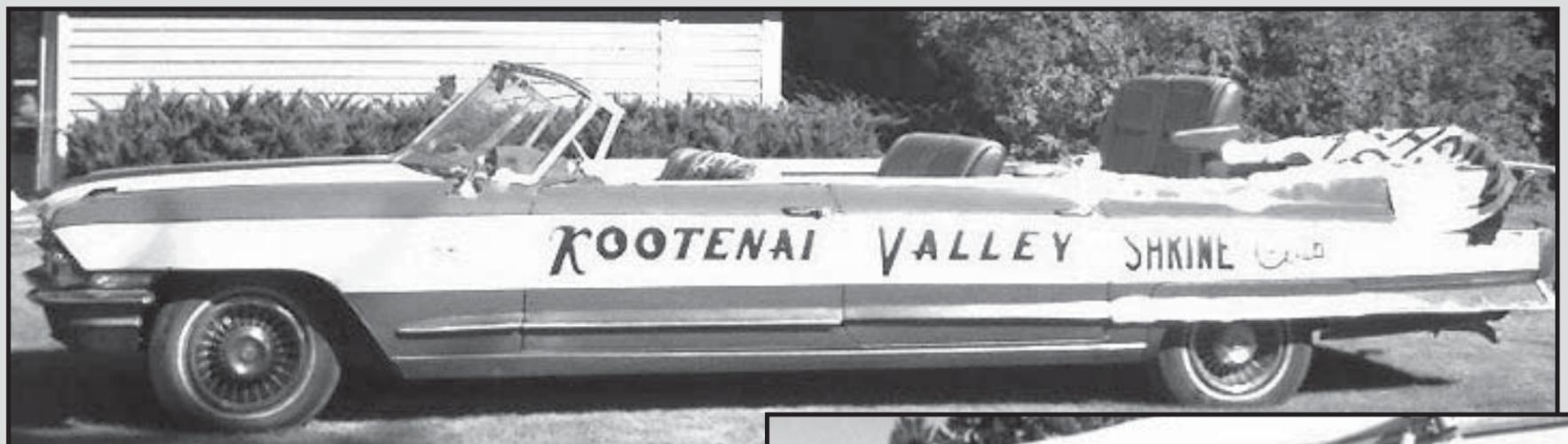
giant birds and all types of legendary creatures. Kevin is currently working on the third book in this series, which is planned for a November release. Kevin also writes Masonic poetry. His poem, All in a Day's Labor, received publication in the Spring '09 issue of the Journal of the Masonic Society.

"For me, Masonry is not a destination," Kevin said. "It is a journey, and the journey is itself the destination in this lifetime. We should always strive for improvement, yet we should make of it a joy rather than a chore."



named Eridona Tocsin and her younger cousin Benedict. She tries to keep Benedict out of trouble. This leads them to encounters with lake monsters,

LIBBY LODGE No. 85 A BIG HIT AT NORDIC FEST



The annual Nordic Fest was held in Libby on September 11th and 12th. Again this year, members of Libby Lodge No. 85 sold Pork Chop John sandwiches as its fundraiser. The sandwiches are always a big hit with the Nordic Fest crowd.

Right to left: Bruce Carrier, WM, David Stephenson, and Dale Smith.

On Saturday for the Nordic Fest Parade, the Kootenai Valley Shrine Club, Knights Templar and Libby Mason rode in the 1937 chop limo shown above. They distributed 250 stuffed toy animals to the kids.



MT ROLLS TRAINING

Records OnLine for Lodge Secretaries (MT ROLLS) training was conducted on September 19th during the Wardens Workshop in Billings, two sessions in Helena on September 23rd and once again at the Wardens Workshop in Great Falls on September 26th.

W. Brother Tom Heath, who is the developer of the program and President of Barker Point Solutions from Union, Maine, conducted the ROLLS Training assisted by Brother Andrew Gardiner, Assistant Grand Secretary. W. Brother Heath is also the Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

Currently, there are 65 Montana Lodges who can go online with ROLLS. The training covered the use of the program and addressed the frequently asked questions. The Grand Lodge of Montana should be able to have all lodges able to use ROLLS by the end of October.

The ROLLS program is currently in use by the Grand Lodge of Maine and Vermont. During the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Idaho on the 18th of September they also approved converting to ROLLS.

The photos show W. Brother Heath and Lodge Secretaries during the presentation in Helena and Great Falls.

The following Lodges will be authorized to go online with ROLLS as soon as they contact the Grand Lodge Office and receive information of the initial connection to the system: Virginia City 1, Helena 3, Morning Star 5, Gallatin 6, Flint Creek 11, Deer Lodge 14, Dillon 16, Mystic Tie-Riverside 17, Sheridan 20, Valley 21, Mount Moriah 24, West Gate 27, Stevensville 28, Ashlar 29,

Livingston 32, Monitor 35, Ruby 36, Star In The West 40, Boulder Basin 41, Victor 43, Choteau 44, North Star 46, Chinook 50, Ottawa 51, Augusta 54, Mount Jefferson 56, Malta 57, Euclid 58, Manhattan 59, Wisdom 61, Ponemah 63, Whitefish 64, Carbon 65, Golden Eagle 66, Musselshell 69, Thompson Falls 70, Three Forks 73, Terry 74, Sandstone 84, Libby 85, Lower Yellowstone 90, Plentywood 91, Eureka 93, Treasure 95, Kyle 96, Captain Scott 98, Lavina-Temple 101, Pilgrim 102, Western Star 104, Meridian 105, Scobey 109, Jerusalem 115, Ekalaka 120, Loyalty 121, Rapelje 122, Circle 136, Park 140, Jordan 148, Pryor Mountain 151, Hot Springs 153, Lincoln 157.



DEMOLAY NEWS

Time quickly passes as another great DeMolay year came to an end then starts again. July 24-27 2009, Montana held the 79th Annual Conclave here in the great city of Billings. DeMolays around the state traveled to Billings to represent their local chapter during the general sessions. As Conclave progressed, they attended a fun session at the Big Splash Water Park and invited the Rainbow and Jobs Daughters.

The State Chapter also initiated a couple of new brothers into DeMolay. As they have received both of the degrees, they will take those values back to Havre to reopen the James F. Hagner Chapter. Every Conclave, the members of Montana DeMolay will elect a new State Master Councilor and State Deputy Master Councilor to represent DeMolay in Montana. Brother Ryan Park of Ross C. Jensen Chapter was elected to be the 80th State Master Councilor for the 2009-2010 term. Brother Drew Burkhart of Ross C. Jensen Chapter was elected to be the State Deputy Master Councilor for the 2009-2010 term.

As the Conclave Festivities came to a close, the new line of officers including the State Master Councilor and State Deputy Master Councilor was installed with a Grand Banquet and Grand Ball to follow. After the Grand Ball, a rededication ceremony was given by the outgoing State Master Councilor, J.D. Olsen of William D. Cummings Chapter. On behalf of the Montana

DeMolay, thank you to those who were able to help, donate, and/or contribute their efforts to making Conclave running smoothly.

Upcoming events:

September 20th - Great Falls, MT – a Legion of Honor Investiture will be held at the Scottish Rite at 2 PM.

October 24th – Bozeman, MT – Masquerade Ball

December 5th – Bozeman, MT – DeMolay Spectacular

Please check with the website www.mtdemolay.org as dates are subject to change.

Remember: Any young man between the ages of 12-21 can petition to become a DeMolay. The DeMolay does not need to have Masonic Affiliation in their family to join. Whether be a son, grandson, nephew, neighbor's son, friend's son, etc... I encourage them to join this great fraternity. If you are need of any information or need a petition for DeMolay, please contact us at: info@mtdemolay.org or you can visit us at www.mtdemolay.org or www.demolay.org

Trever Howard, Scribe and Events Advisor



RETURN TO ELK MOUNTAIN

Recently MW Brother Lund had the opportunity to return to Elk Mountain Lodge No. 119 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado where he received his degrees. MW Brother Lund accompanied MW Brother Brain Cotter, Grand Master of Colorado to attend lodge where both Grand Master's participated in a degree work that evening. This photo was taken by RW Brother Charlie Johnson, DGM of Colorado and shows L-R - Tom Lund, GM of Montana, James Anderson, WM of No. 119 and Brian "Stunt Double" Cotter, GM of Colorado.



MURPHY RECEIVES KTCH

As his last official act, Past Right Eminent Grand Commander Phil Blaisdell sojourned to Bozeman Tuesday, September 15th to present Sir Knight Brian J. Murphy with one of the highest honors of York Rite Masonry, the prestigious KTCH, Knight Templar Cross of Honor.

Murphy was unable to attend Grand York Rite sessions last June due to a family commitment. Brian is currently the Grand Marshall of Montana and Past Eminent Commander of Saint Johns Commandery #12, the sponsoring body of RCJ Chapter, Order of DeMolay, where he is Chapter Dad.

BUTTE AREA INSTALLATIONS

Butte Lodge No 22, Mount Mariah Lodge No 24, Whitehall Mystic Tie/Riverside Lodge No 17, Monitor Lodge No 35 and Anaconda Acacia Lodge No 33 gathered together for the installation of their respective lodge officers in August. Left: District Officer Lewis Smith presents the Lodge Charter to the newly installed Lodge Masters.



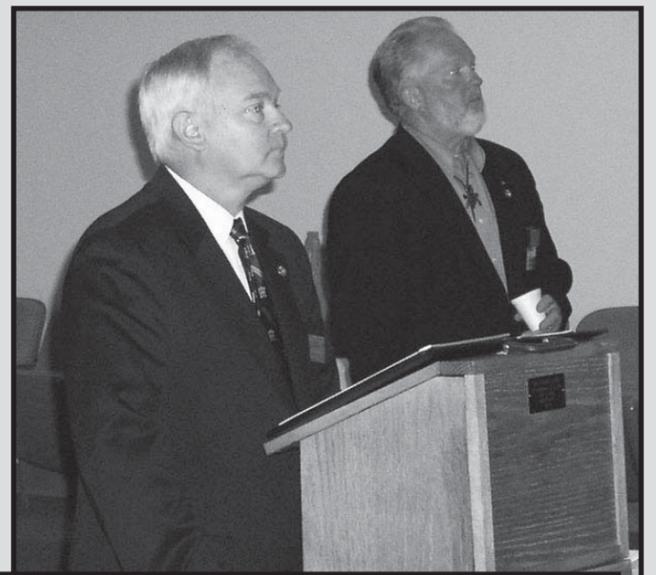
MWPGM Dave Nielsen reciting the oath of office.

WARDEN'S WORKSHOP PARTICIPATING LODGES

The following Lodges had representation at one of the two Warden's Workshops (Sept 19 in Billings and Sept 26 in Great Falls). During the Workshops insightful presentations were given on such topics as Commitment, Membership, Freemasonry, Leadership, Builder Award and the combined ritual book. The overall content and theme was reminiscent of the 2004 Masonic Year.

Helena 3, Morning Star 5, Gallatin 6, Missoula 13, Deer Lodge 14, Bozeman 18, Butte 22, Ashlar 29, Livingston 32, Cascade 34, Ionic 38, Star In The West 40 North Star 46, Ottawa 51, Hiram 52, Matla 57, Euclid 58, Wisdom 61, Stillwater 62 Carbon 65, Golden Eagle 66, Belgrade 68, Corinthian 72, Mission

Valley 78, Pondera 80, Cut Bank 82, Sandstone 84, Judith 86, Sts John 92, Capt Scott 98, Lavina Temple 101, Meridian 105, Billings 113, Loyalty 121, Delta 128, Powder River 135, Huntley Project 144, Jordan 148, Rimrock 149, Sentinel 155 and Union 31 (Maine).



HANDS OF THE WORKMAN

Harry Retzer Comly, served as Speaker of the Montana House. He was a native of Philadelphia, Pa., having been born in that city March 12, 1841. He was a lawyer; admitted to the bar in Philadelphia April 10, 1863, and practiced law in Helena for nearly twenty-six years, having come to the State in May, 1865.

For nearly a third of a century he was prominent in the affairs of the state of Montana, both as a lawyer and a statesman and ranks among the conservative and reliable members of the Helena Bar. He was elected Speaker of the House by a unanimous vote of the Democratic members. Brother Comly purchased a tract of land in San Diego, California. He planted fruit, made his home and remained active in California Masonry having affiliated with San Diego No. 35. He died on April 4, 1920.

M.W. Brother Comly was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Morning Star Lodge No. 5 in Helena on March 9, 1867 and was elected Worshipful Master in 1874 and also elected as Deputy Grand Master in 1874. He became Grand Master of Montana in 1875.

M.W. Comly liked to describe Masonry in the abstract

and spoke of the traveler on his journey. *"Masonry, it is not human, it is the road o'er which we travel graded by our gathers in the solid rock principle; it has withstood the storms of ages, and become a firm and beaten track. On the summit of this road, diffusing their brilliant ethereal splendor from the cradle to the grave, stand the immutable*



HARRY R. COMLY
10TH GRAND MASTER

principles of brotherly love, relief and truth, protected by the hand of Deity himself, illuminating not the Masonic Road, but darting their pure ethereal essence in the caverns and gorges of the earth. Brethren, let us maintain this highway! Let us permit no rubbish to obstruct its route! See to it that no vandal hands remove its landmarks, and that it may, as transmitted to by our fathers, descend in full repair to our successors. Then will the light of love and truth bless the hearts of men now and in the time to come. Then will man, crowned with the ever living principles of God, be true to himself and to his fellow; and Masonry, glorious Masonry! become the guide and inspiration of the world."

THE CUBE

We receive none knowingly into our ranks who are not moral and upright before God and of good repute before the world. A black cube, therefore, is about as serious an undertaking as any Master Mason will ever make.

The Montana Code prohibits arbitrary use of the cube. If so used, it could be construed as a Masonic offense. The "secrecy of the ballot" and the universal requirement to elect by unanimous ballot are two of the greatest bulwarks of the Fraternity. However, no human institution is perfect. No human being always acts according to the best that is in him. Occasional failure of the system may be laid to the individuals using it and not to the Fraternity. It is essential that lodges have a harmonious membership and occasions do arise where personal objection takes precedence.

The casting of a black cube not only rejects an applicant, but places a certain disability upon him which he is powerless to remove. The power of a Master Mason's ballot is very great. No Grand Master has the power to set aside the black cube.

Like most powers, the ballot can be used to work harm, or good. It is a reflection against whom it is used and also to him who uses it. However, unlike many great powers put into the hands of men this one is not subject to review or control by any human agency. The absence of authority is one of the reasons why the power should be used only after solemn self-inquiry and the reason behind it's use is found to be Masonic and not personal.

Turning the Masonic black cube into a secret dagger for personal revenge is indefensible. While no hard and fast rule can be laid down there is no way to explain "this is a good reason, but that is not a good reason". Each of us has to judge the reason for himself. We may have a dislike for an applicant not amounting to hatred nor predicated upon evil in the man's character, but then we must decide the question, will the unpleasantness to us be greater than the good to him? Are we sure that we cannot accept him as a brother merely because we "have never liked him?"

Justice requires that we think carefully, deliberate slowly, and act cautiously. No man will know what we do; no eye will see, save that All Seeing Eye which pervades the innermost recesses of our hearts and will reward us according to our merits. Shakespeare said, "O, it is excellent to have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant!"

The black cube is a giant's strength to protect Freemasonry. Used thoughtlessly, carelessly, without Masonic reason, it crushes not only him against whom it is aimed but he who casts it. An ill used black cube drops into the heart and blackens it.

Remember! White balls elect and Black Cubes reject! Look well to your ballot and vote for the good of Masonry!

John N. Love, Grand Historian

Powder River Masonic Lodge #135 Broadus, Montana



Right Worshipful Brother John Mangen, Deputy Grand Master of Masons in Montana opened the Installation of Officers with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country.



Grandpa Hiram Hantz would drive cattle through this valley to Miles City.

**Installing Officers:
Installing Master RWB John J. Mangen
Installing Marshal WB T. "Gene" Seerest
Installing Secretary Gordon Mulkey**



The Green Coats brighten the day. Also you can tell the "City Dudes" by the size of the hats and the number of feathers.



The Flintstone Lodge on a High Hill overlooking the valley where Annie Oakley and Little John Wayne reside.

Although the Installing Master had excellent supervision on how to install officers by South Dakota ritual, he declined and did it the Montana Way. Visiting Brothers from South Dakota were Right Worshipful Brother Jack Hantz Junior Grand Warden, Worshipful Brother Bruce Crisman Junior Grand Deacon and Brother Herb Cook from Rapid City Lodge.

**Lodge Officers:
Worshipful Master L. Brett Tabolt
Senior Warden Jesse Barnhart
Junior Warden John B. Smith
Sec/Treas Gordon Mulkey
Senior Steward Ronald L. Talcott
Junior Steward William H. Fulton
Senior Deacon LeRoy Biesheuvel
Junior Deacon Giles L. Smith
Tyler George A. Fulton**



South Dakota Masons, Suspicious Characters!



RWB John may be standing in front of the grill, but that doesn't mean he is in "charge"! It was a wonderful afternoon visiting Montana and Powder River Brothers. It was great fun and more especially great food. Thank you very much for the invitation.



GRAND LODGE OF MONTANA

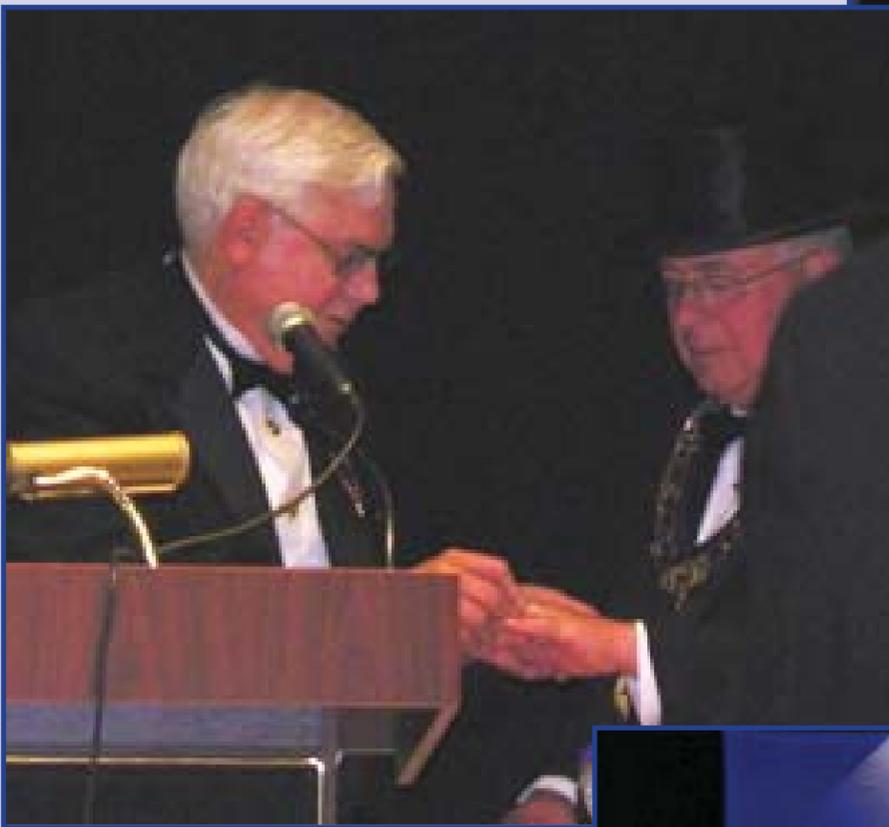


*PGM Larry Lund, Gladys Lund
Furtwangler and MWGM Tom Lund*

*Below: PGM Bob Coleman
presenting the Grand Master's
signet ring to MWGM Tom Lund*



*PGM Tom Jordan escorting
MWGM Tom Lund for
installation*



*Charlene Brinkel, Tom's Past
Grand Matron (1992-1993);
Margo Hellickson, Associate
Grand Matron of the Order of
Eastern Star; Debbie Bricker,
OES member; MWGM Tom
Lund; and Joanne Kibbee, Past
Grand Treasurer*



GRAND LODGE OF MONTANA



Grand Master Lund installing the Worshipful Master's of the Billings area Lodges: (Left to Right)

MWGM Lund, Ronald Boyd (113); James Baskett (113) and Dennis Duffy (149)



MWGM Lund installed RW Brother Will Alexander as Senior Grand Warden



*Installation of Dennis Duffy, WM (149)
Left to Right: James V. Duffy (58); Tom Duffy, RW Jr. Gr. Warden (58) and Dennis Duffy, WM (149)*

Mark Twain Award

Background

Following the publication of *It's about Time! Moving Masonry into the 21st Century* (available to download at www.msana.com), the Masonic Information Center (MIC) initiated the Twain Award to challenge Lodges to take the concept of Masonry *off the shelf and put the identity of Masonry into action!*

Goals

The Twain Award celebrates Masonic Lodges that show exemplary work in planning, implementing/documenting, and reflecting upon how its members collectively enrich the fraternal experience that is uniquely Masonic. Lodges' work must demonstrate **high energy, fresh enthusiasm, new creativity, and visible productivity** in communicating a positive identity of Freemasonry within the Lodge and throughout the greater community. The Twain Award year runs annually from December 1 to November 30. Get the most from your Lodge's participation by consistently involving, exciting, and challenging all Lodge brethren in activities related to the Twain Award process throughout the year.

Step 1

Lodges entrants need to send Twain Award Entry (Registration) Forms of contact information to MIC. Lodges intending to participate in the Twain Award should download an entry/registration form from the Mark Twain Award link available at www.msana.com. After completing the form with the Lodge's contact details, the Lodge should fax or email the form by June of the award year.

Step 2

Go to www.msana.com and click on the left-hand link to Mark Twain Award. At this link, the Twain Award posts essential and detailed information about the criteria for winning a Twain Award. Please read the information carefully and review MIC's publication, *It's about Time! Moving Masonry into the 21st Century*.

Step 3

Lodge submissions to the Twain Award contest must clearly describe and document the Lodge's work on three stages of its involvement in Masonic Awareness from both an Internal and External perspective, including the following: **PLANNING • IMPLEMENTING/DOCUMENTING • REFLECTING/EVALUATING.**

Step 4

Find and follow the guidelines for building content and formatting your submission. Remember, the quality of your presentation reflects your Lodge's identity.

Submission Evaluation

Being a large or small Lodge offers no advantage because the Award recognizes the Lodge that builds on its own Masonic identity within context of the Craft's proud history, traditions, and standards of excellence. The Twain Award offers Lodges the opportunity to compete with themselves not against other Lodges; it supports and recognizes participation in Grand Lodge programs; and it challenges Lodges to produce ideas that are unique to their Lodges' strengths and Masonic identity both within the Lodge and throughout the larger community. Winning MIC's Executive Secretary Richard Fletcher, PGM (VT), announces Twain Award winners at the Grand Masters Conference held in February each year.

Winning

Lodges receive a custom designed acrylic award naming the Lodge and award year. Additionally, MIC sends winning Lodges original press releases for the Lodge to place in local publications. The MSANA Website hosts the annual list of winners and links to feature stories.

Enter today and Build Excellence into Masonic Awareness!

Mark Twain Award for Masonic Awareness...

At A Glance

The Masonic Information Center invites Lodges to enter the next Mark Twain Award for Excellence in Masonic Awareness competition!

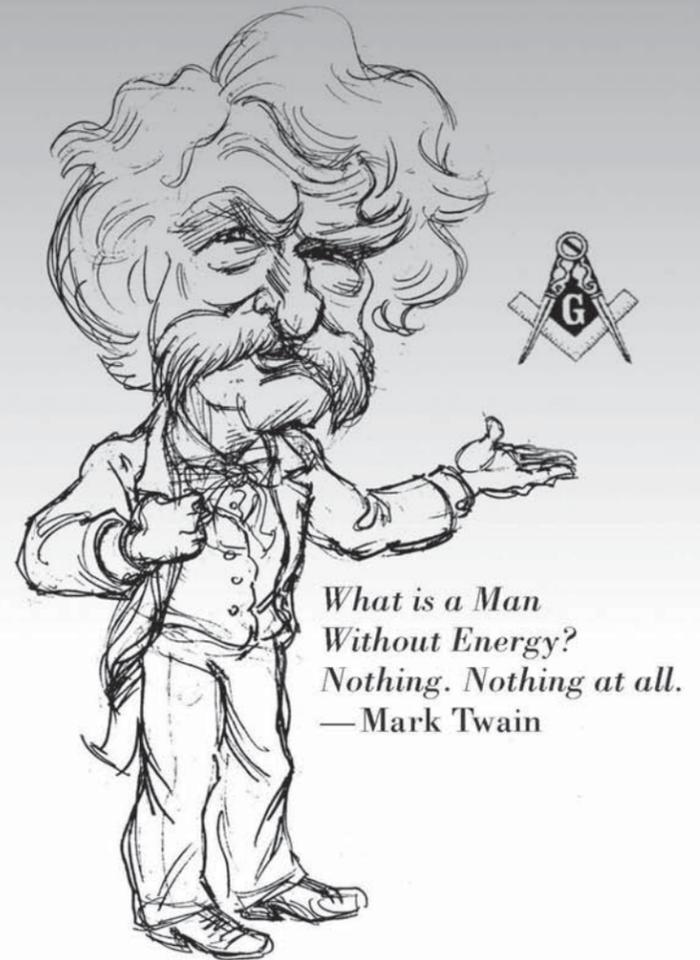
Recognizing Outstanding Performance in Masonic Awareness within the Lodge and throughout the greater community.

Winning Lodges Evidence Understanding of Freemasonry with...

- Energy
- Creativity
- Action
- Fraternity

Building Masonic Awareness

- Brother by Brother
- Lodge by Lodge



CONGRATULATIONS! TWAIN AWARD WINNERS FOR 2008

Helion Lodge #1Huntsville, Alabama
 Epes Randolph Lodge #32Tucson, Arizona
 Springville Lodge #153Powder Springs, Georgia
 Burnside Lodge #634Burnside, Kentucky
 Bewleyville Lodge #228Bewleyville, Kentucky
 Maine Lodge of ResearchPortland, MaineSt.
 Aspinquid Lodge #198York, Maine
 Vienna Lodge #205Clio, Michigan
 George W. Lininger Lodge #268Omaha, Nebraska
 Omadi Lodge #5South Sioux City, Nebraska
 Nellis Lodge #46Las Vegas, Nevada
 Trenton-Cyrus Lodge #5Pennington, New Jersey
 Nutley Lodge #25Nutley, New Jersey

La Fraternidad Lodge #387New York, New York
 Clifford Duell Lodge #756Fayetteville, North Carolina
 Frontier Lodge #48Stillwater, Oklahoma
 Albert Pike Lodge #162Guthrie, Oklahoma
 Jephtha Lodge #121Hudson, South Dakota
 Bethel Lodge #194Prospect, Tennessee
 Frontier Lodge #28West Columbia, Texas
 Hay Market Lodge #2Haymarket, Virginia
 Sequim Lodge #213Sequim, Washington
 Eureka Lodge #20Seattle, Washington
 Lynden Lodge #56Ferndale, Washington

Mark Twain Award for Excellence in Masonic Awareness



“What is a man without energy? Nothing. Nothing at all.”
—Mark Twain



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why select Mark Twain as the Award's namesake?

The Award borrows Brother Mark Twain's identity as a lively, innovative communicator whose work consistently challenged his listeners and readers to think and act responsibly, to ask questions, and to seek enlightenment. Decades later, we remain aware of Twain's intellect and productivity.

2. Does the Twain Award recognize work within the Lodge (INTERNAL) or throughout the greater community (EXTERNAL)?

Excellence in both internal and external Masonic Awareness is essential to winning a Twain Award. The Twain Award emphasizes that it is equally important to Masonic Awareness to stimulate the quality of the Lodge experience and to raise awareness among the community about Freemasonry's history and value to the community.

3. What do Lodges gain by participating?

Lodges gain additional knowledge of the Fraternity, and they learn more about their own strengths, assets, needs, and community.

4. When was the Twain Award formed and what was the goal?

Initiated in response to the 2004 Grand Masters' call for the MIC to improve Masonic awareness, the Mark Twain Masonic Awareness Award recognizes the urgent need for Masons to: 1. Clarify and heighten Masonic identity throughout the greater community. 2. Energize their experience of Freemasonry within the Lodge.

5. How do Lodges participate in the competition?

The Masonic Information Center (MIC) asks Lodges to submit an entry/registration form enabling us to work with entrants throughout the year of their submission development. Entry/registration forms are available to download from www.msansa.com; just click on Twain Award to get to the link. Lodges should submit the form to MIC via email (msana@ix.netcom.com) or fax (301) 608-3457.

6. How will Twain Award entries be evaluated?

The MIC Task Force reviews each submission based upon the Lodge's individual merits. Lodges are not compared to one another. Merit is based upon the quality of the submission, which should follow the guidelines posted on the www.msansa.com website under the link to Mark Twain Award.

7. How does a Lodge win a Mark Twain Masonic Awareness Award?

Entries are judged by the MIC Task Force based upon the Lodge's submission of a binder, detailing the activities that the Lodge planned, implemented, and evaluated in response to the MIC's call to action in the MIC Report, It's About Time!.

8. When will the Mark Twain Masonic Awareness Award winners be announced?

The Mark Twain Masonic Awareness Award winners are announced each February at the Grand Masters' Conference. In some cases, Richard Fletcher has been available to present the Twain Award at Grand Lodge sessions.

9. How do we organize our submission?

Your Lodge's submission should include the following: 1. Registration/Contact Information Form 2. 100-word typed summary 3. A 3- to 4-page typed narrative that describes your Lodge's quest toward the Twain Award, including references to both internal and external work throughout the three stages: Planning, Implementation, and Reflection 4. Appendices of supporting documentation

10. What is the schedule for the award?

To participate in the Twain Award competition, submit Entry/Registration forms no later June than of the award year. The deadline for entry submissions is December 1 of the award year.

11. What kind of support documentation is appropriate?

Support documentation is important to evaluating the overall quality of an entry. Both project narrative and support materials provide evidence of the work the Lodge accomplished to raise Masonic Awareness. The documentation may be submitted in print and non-print media including the following: photographs, DVDs, CDs, brochures, websites, press releases, magazine feature stories, news articles, and much more.

12. Will submissions be returned?

Because this is a continent-wide competition, it will not be possible to return your submissions. Please send copies. Retain your originals.

13. What can we learn from other winners?

If you would like a former winner to contact you, please let MIC know. Call or email msana@ix.netcom.com with any questions.



MULLAN PASS 2009



Mullan Pass conducted its annual outdoor meeting on August 1, 2009.



Tom Miller installed as W. Grand Organist at the Mullan Pass Meeting.



INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE SHRINE CHANTERS ASSOCIATION

Worshipful Brother John Baber was elected to the high office of International President of the Shrine Chanters Association of North America. (SCAONA) at the Shrine Imperial Convention held July, 2009 in San Antonio, Texas. His duties will be to hold office for one year and organize the international chapter competition for the 2010 convention in Toronto, Ontario, next July. Baber is Past Master of Lavina Temple Lodge 101, and has been Grand Masonic Organist for both Past Grand Master's Gerald Shay and Robert A. Coleman. Besides directing the Al Bedoo Shrine Chanters he is also the director of the Billings Community Orchestra and plays the Al Bedoo Calliope in parades. He holds a state office in the York Rite Association and accompanies the Scottish Rite quartet. W. Brother John is the music supervisor of the choral and orchestra departments at Billings Central Catholic High School.

John Baber, PM No. 101



Our Vision

The Masons of Montana will be recognized as a relevant and respected Fraternity, committed to attracting, developing and retaining all men of high quality who strive for self improvement and the opportunity to make a positive difference in their community, and in the lives of those around them.

Our Mission

Freemasonry in Montana strives to satisfy our members as we teach moral standards, and support a way of life that promotes fellowship, brotherhood, and self-improvement through excellence in leadership, education, family, charity, and community involvement.

**Submission Deadline for December 2009
Montana Masonic News is PRIOR to
November 15, 2009
(see page 2 for details)**

Trivia
Answer:

From The
Quarries Of Last
Chance Gulch



CELESTIAL LODGE

July, August September 2009



My Brethren, the roll of the workmen has been called, and one more Master Mason has not answered to his name, He has laid down the working tools of the Craft and with them he has left that mortal part for which he no longer has use.

His labours here below have taught him to divest his heart and conscience of the vices and superfluities of life, thereby fitting his mind as a living stone for that spiritual building—that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Strengthened in his labours hereby faith in God, and, confident of expectation of immortality, he has sought admission to the

Celestial Lodge above. Author unknown

Frank P. Dakan	Rimrock No. 149	9/1/2003	Raymond Felton	Doric No. 53	3/27/2009	Donald T. Moss	Bigfork No. 150	7/19/2009
Laurence J. Conklin	Stevensville No. 28	2/5/2007	Herbert J. Bacon	Wisdom No. 61	5/9/2009	John W. Rogers	Friendship No. 37	8/4/2009
William T. Collins	Aahlar No. 29	11/03/2007	John V. Nelson	Whitefish No. 64	6/24/2009	Kenneth J. Carr	Boulder Basin No. 41	8/9/2009
Albert F. Hofferber	Ashlar No. 29	2/1/2009	Lewis McBride	Musselshell No. 69	5/31/2009	William T. Trehwella	Helena No. 3	8/19/2009
Robert E. Richeson	Morning Star No. 5	05/2009	Louis C. Kalberg	Musselshell No. 69	5/1/2009	Magnus R. Swanson	Kyle No. 96	8/21/2009
Francis M. Superneau	Missoula No. 13	6/24/2009	John R. Davies	Mission Valley No. 78	1/13/2009	Glenn G. Allen	Trinity No. 152	8/28/2009
Ormand R. Baldrige	Missoula No. 13	5/9/2009	Terence Higgins	Mission Valley No. 78	5/2/2009	Burl E. Hatfield	Stevensville No. 28	8/31/2009
LaVerne Klingsmith	Bozeman No. 18	4/26/2009	Edwin A. Kapernick	Pryor Mountain No. 151	04/2009	Kenneth Venner	Butte No. 22	8/27/2009
Laird Plymale	Valley No. 21	5/26/2009	Ardith "Len" Miller	Ottawa No. 51	7/3/2009	Gerald N. Cadman	Stillwater No. 62	8/28/2009
William Tarrant	Mount Moriah No. 24	6/1/2009				Glenn G. Allen	Trinity No. 152	8/28/2009
Howard L. McClure	Westgate No. 27	6/21/2009						
Roy L. Dalrymple	Ashlar No. 29	7/1/2009						
Russell E. Martin	Ashlar No. 29	7/27/2009						
Joseph Black, Jr.	Glendive No. 31	4/13/2009						
Donald Plagmann	Glendive No. 31 / Jordan No. 148	6/5/2009						
L. Willard Johnson	Kalispell No. 42	07/2009						
James Kindle	North Star No. 46	7/16/2009						
Charles T. Wolter	North Star No. 46	3/21/2009						
Carl R. Thompson	Ottawa No. 51	UNK						

If you are aware of a fellow brother who has passed away, please email the information to rgardiner@grandlodgemontana.org or complete this form and mail to:

Montana Grand Lodge PO Box 1158 Helena, MT 59624.

Deceased: _____

Lodge: _____



50 YEAR MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER 2009

Please note that recent deaths and dimits from membership may not be reflected in this listing. Any brother with a question about his membership status should contact his lodge secretary.

September

Virgil V. Gaffney Euclid No. 58
Jack C. Benson Morning Star No. 5
Ralph T. Brennan Morning Star No. 5
Louis F. Marquardt Helena No. 3
James O. DeBree Mountain No. 110

Arthur A. Bowls, Jr Ruby No. 36
Robert L. Curnow Morning Star No. 5
John F. Hoey Dillion No. 16
Roscoe Montgomery Bozeman No. 18
John W. Mogstad Pilgrim No. 102

Raynor Armstrong Mount Moriah No. 24
Raymond K. Boe Helena No. 3
Warren V. Harrington Deer Lodge No. 14
Joseph L. Spiroff Helena No. 3
Roy F. Cattrell Gallatin No. 6
Vernon E. Copenhagen Kyle No. 96
Luke Carelli Monitor No. 35
Howard Anderson Mission Valley No. 78

November

October

James M. Lavin Kalispell No. 42
Eugene R. Baker Ashlar No. 29

William H. Oser Ashlar No.29
James D. Parman Ashlar No.29
Thomas E. Smith Ponemah No. 63

BROTHER DONALD A. ROBERTS 50 YEAR MASON



Brother Donald A. Roberts, II of Rapid City was presented his 50-year Masonic Pin on September 10th at the Rapid City Masonic Center. M.W. Brother Jack H. Welker Grand Master of South Dakota presented the award on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Montana. Brother Donald's daughter, Peggy Titze and son, Ron Roberts assisted in pinning the award on his collar.

WELCOME NEW MASTER MASONS

David P. Foster Deer Lodge No. 14 /21/2009
David R. Foscue Euclid No. 58 6/16/2009
John W. Samouce Ionic No. 38 8/25/2009



Grand Master Lund at the Daughters of the Nile, Nile Band Rummage Sale

MONTANA DEMOLAY LEGION OF HONOR INVESTITURE

Sunday, September 20, 2009 proved to be an emotionally charged afternoon as family, friends, and dignitaries from Montana DeMolay gathered at the Great Falls' Scottish Rite Center to invest three worthy Masons with the very auspicious DeMolay International Legion of Honor. The Legion of Honor is the highest honor conferred by DeMolay International. DeMolay International may confer this honor on a Mason over 30 years of age who has performed unusual and meritorious service on behalf of DeMolay or who has evidenced a spirit of cooperation and appreciation for the Order of DeMolay. Congratulations to brothers Keith Olsen Sam Whitehead (State E.O.) and Steve Fagenstrom.

DeMolay Legion of Honor Investiture

Sunday, Sept. 20th, 2009



RECIPIENTS:
Keith Olsen ~ Sam Whitehead ~ Steve Fagenstrom

(back row) Drew Dugger, Bob Kampfer, Brian Murphy, Michael Peet, JD Olsen. Ryan Parker, Earl O'Neil, Al Schmidt
Ethan Schaff, Wade Sellers, Keith Olsen, Sam Whitehead, Steve Fagenstrom, Drew Burkhart, Walter Hantsman, Joshua Olsen

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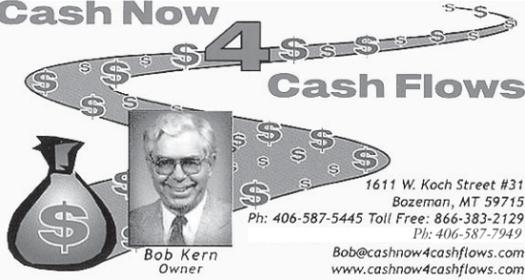
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Calendar of Events

October 2009

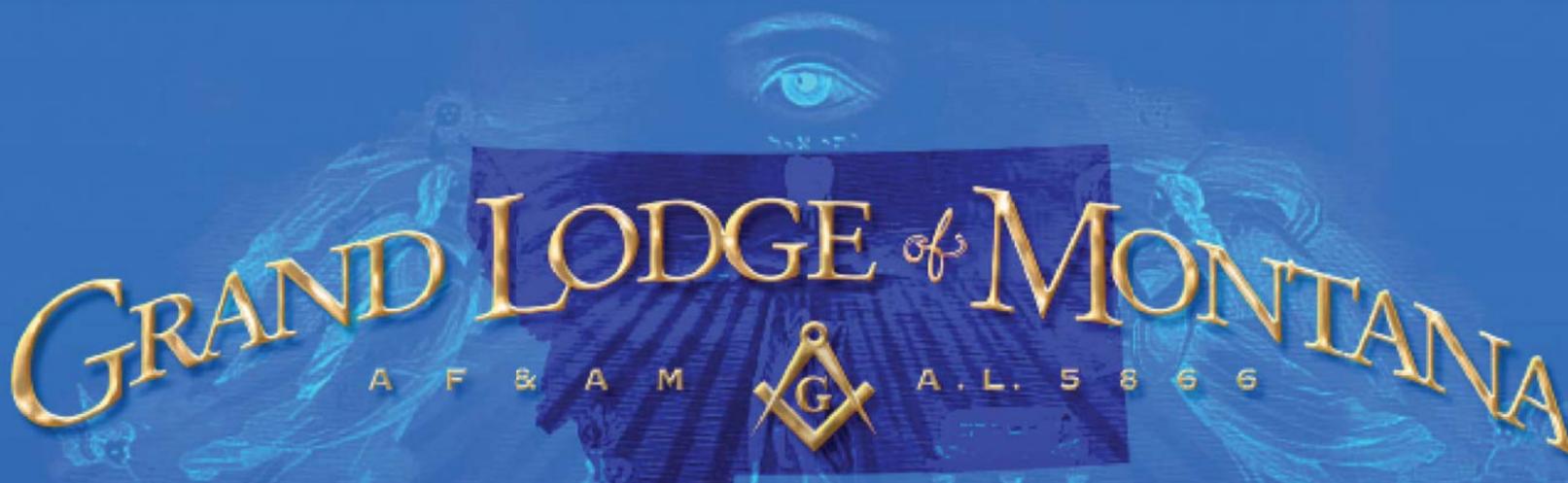
Oct 3	Al Beddo & Algeria Ceremonial - Livingston	Oct 24	CMR District Lodge of Instruction - Lewistown
Oct 4	Red Cross York Rite - Great Falls	Oct 24	York Rite Degree Work - Billings
Oct 9- 10	Helena Valley Scottish Rite Reunion	Oct 24	York Rite Northeast District Meeting - Conrad
Oct 10	Red Cross York Rite - Billings	Oct 28	Grand Master at FT. Harrison VA Center
Oct 10	Glacier District Lodge of Instruction - Plains	Oct 28	Grand Master at Moring Star No.5
Oct 10	York Rite Southeast District Meeting - Billings	Oct 30-31	Scottish Rite Honor Men - Valley of Helena
Oct 17	Livingston District Lodge of Instruction - Bozeman		

November 2009

Nov 5	Grand Master at Lafayette Lodge No. 241	Nov 19	Grand Master at Butte Area Lodges Dinner
Nov 6-7	Western Montana Valley Scottish Rite - Missoula	Nov 21	York Rite Council Degree - Billings
Nov 8-10	Grand Lodge of Nevada - Reno	Nov 24	Thanksgiving Day
Nov 11	Veterans Day		

December 2009

Dec 10	Helena Valley Scottish Rite Annual Meeting & Installation	Dec 15	York Rite Christmas Observance - Bozeman
Dec 12	York Rite Commandry - Billings	Dec 19	York Rite Christmas Observance - Billings
Dec 13	Chanters Concert - Billings		



Take time to visit your Grand Lodge Website
there is more than meets the eye!

www.grandlodgemontana.org

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE THE GRAND LODGE WEBSITE

Our Masonic Grand Lodge website (www.grandlodgemontana.org) has undergone a radical update and revision and has taken in to account data security and integrity issues and employed the most current and accepted design formatting standards. It is a professionally designed website for Masonry. This website is designed to be explored and provide information and to catch your attention. There is a virtual cornucopia of information available on our Masonic website for all Masonic Appendant Organizations.

The need for increased coordination and access to information for all Masonic organizations was addressed by the Conference of Grand Masters In North America and was answered by the *Committee on Masonic Renewal*. The end result is that through the Masonic Renewal of North America link there is a link to all Masonic organizations. You will find the top or National level with additional links to the State level organizations. Not only are these links in place but at the top national or international level there are abundant resources for those specific organizations. In addition, as the inquiring individual reviews the website for Masonic Renewal (and the rest of the website) they will find resources and information that will be valuable not

only for a Lodge but any Masonic organization. This also brings up another issue: if any Masonic organization wants to have a presence on the net then their site should be up-to-date and current.

The Committee on Masonic Renewal website maintains a thorough, extensive link list of Masonic Appendant Bodies which is kept current.

Masonic Renewal Committee is the first link on our [Links](http://www.grandlodgemontana.org/links.html) page www.grandlodgemontana.org/links.html.

We have done our best to provide an aesthetically pleasing and functional MASONIC webpage. As Most Worshipful Grand Master Lund has noted, if you want to find more light in Masonry you just need to take the time to explore this website and look at what is available and read the information and resources that have been collected and assembled for your use.